Health related programmes on DD

†2735. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to telecast health programmes on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by Government so far in this matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati regularly telecasts programmes on health. A weekly health magazine titled "Kalyani" is being telecast from eight major Kendras since 30th May, 2002. This programme seeks to create awareness about diseases like Malaria, T.B. Iodine Deficiency, Cancer, HIV, AIDS, etc. In addition, 30 second spots on the same subject are also telecast on the national network. Doordarshan in collaboration with BBC World Health Service Trust and NACO has also launched a special campaign on HIV, AIDS.

Venue for hosting international film festivals

2736. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is proposed to be made permanent venue for hosting International Film Festivals; and

(b) if so, the reasons for making capital as the venue depriving other State where they are generally held by rotation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Losses due to video piracy to film industry

2737. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that video piracy has caused losses in excess of Rs. 1700 crore to the film industry and Government exchequer;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether a delegation has met Deputy Prime Minister requesting for an investigation into the menace; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A delegation met Deputy Prime Minister and gave a representation dated 21.12.2001 wherein it was indicated that video piracy is causing losses in excess of Rs. 1700 crores to film industry and the Government exchequer.

Home Secretary has written to the Chief Secretaries of Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi to check the menace of video-piracy and take suitable action against the culprits.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also taken several initiatives to mitigate piracy as follows:—

(i) On the basis of a recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication has been entrusted with the task of formulating appropriate training modules for police officers to train them for anti-piracy work.

(ii) To create an anti-piracy mind-set and to promote cooperation among stakeholders, this Ministry has brought film producers, multi-service operators and cable operators together and they have jointly resolve not to exhibit films without valid permission from the copyright holders.

(iii) In an effort to check cable piracy, the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, enabling the Government to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or retransmitting any programme or channel for which he has not been granted a license by the Copyright holder.

(iv) A recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, that a realistic ceiling level for entertainment tax to be imposed by the State Governments could be 60% since high rate of entertainment tax promotes piracy, has been communicated to all State Governments.